

**PHILOSOPHY OF TREATMENT AND INTERVENTION**  
**18th Judicial Circuit Court**  
**Department of Probation and Court Services**

In the past twelve years, research has identified key factors that are associated with criminal behavior, the process which leads to the commission of criminal acts, and the main steps or stages of behavior change. A general model has emerged that identifies the **principles of effective intervention**.

These principles are **RISK, NEED, RESPONSIVITY** and **PROGRAM INTEGRITY**. Risk involves matching the duration, levels, and intensity of treatment and services to the criminal risk level of the individual. High-risk clients require more intensive and extensive services while low risk clients require minimal or no intervention. The need principle focuses on the appropriate targets for intervention. Six factors are directly correlated to an individual's propensity to commit crime. They are: 1) history of anti-social behavior; 2) anti-social personality; 3) anti-social values, and attitudes; 4) criminal/deviant peer association; 5) substance abuse; and 6) dysfunctional family relations. Responsivity refers to the delivery of effective treatment programs in a style and mode that is consistent with the ability and learning style of the individuals. Factors to consider in the area of responsivity are motivation, culture/ethnic issues, gender, verbal skills, communication barriers and cognitive and emotional development. Program integrity refers to organizations that develop policies and procedures to enhance integrity, and professional conduct, provide ongoing training and supervision of staff, and adherence to program designs.

Appropriate correctional interventions have been found to reduce recidivism about 30%. Interventions that have produced these long-term outcomes are behaviorally based, focus on changing criminogenic attitudes and beliefs, increase system competence (e.g. families, peers, schools, employment), and aim to increase the ratio of pro-social to antisocial behavior.

It is the goal of the Department of Probation and Court Services to develop access to a broad continuum of community-based services that adequately address offender risk, need and responsivity for the purpose of significantly reducing criminal re-offending, utilizing the most cost-effective services.

The Department of Probation and Court Services has developed the following objectives to guide the establishment of service delivery plans for those individuals under their supervision.

1. Intervention intensity and duration are based on the client's risk for re-offending, based on current research and methodology for identifying key risk factors.
2. Criminogenic beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors are the highest dynamic risk factors for re-offending and need to be the primary focus of any intervention.
3. System interventions that are community-based, and involve entire systems (families, spouse, peers, employment) are most likely to be effective.

ATTACHMENT A

4. Treatment for emotional/behavioral issues that are not linked to criminal conduct, nor are criminogenic in nature will not result in recidivism reduction.
5. Preferred treatment interventions are those which are designed to change antisocial attitudes, to increase personal skills (self-control, self-management, and problem solving), to increase collateral/familial support (collateral's knowledge of client's risk factors and willingness to support client in making behavioral changes), to build on the offender's strengths, and focus on assessing the offender's total situation and treating it rather than using a strict individual or medical model approach.
6. Traditional insight-oriented, psychodynamic or non-directive therapeutic interventions are not supported for high-risk criminal offenders or for changing criminal behavior and attitudes.
7. All interventions require a behavioral treatment plan with measurable, concrete objectives and timelines that has been reviewed and accepted by probation and meets departmental guidelines for interventions.
8. Effective interventions will provide opportunities for offenders to participate in skill training with directed practice.
9. Short and long-term behavioral outcome data, along with satisfaction measures, will be collected by the Probation Department and by the service provider.
10. Services will be monitored to assess the offender's progress in line with the service delivery plan.
11. Service plans will address public safety issues as well as behavior change.
12. Service plans will outline steps to actively engage pro-social supports for offenders in their communities in order to positively reinforce desired behaviors.